

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 24 August 2005. Responsive to that Office Action, Claim 2 is now cancelled, and Claims 1, 5 and 8 are amended for further prosecution with the other pending claims. With such amendment of claims, there is a further clarification of the pending claims recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner specifically stated that Claim 1 recited the limitation “the recess” in line 12 and there was insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim. In response to this rejection, Claim 1 has been amended and now particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over German Patent DE 833847 in view of Busby (U.S. Patent 6,343,823). The Examiner, however, merely objected to Claims 2 – 5, 7 and 8 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the subject matter of Claim 2 is now incorporated into independent Claim 1, with Claim 2 being cancelled. Such amendment of claims is made in the interest of expediting prosecution of this case, given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Such amendment of claims is made, moreover, without addressing the merits of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Dependent Claims 5 and 8 are simply amended to change the dependency thereof.

It is now believed that Claims 1 and 3 – 8 are in allowable form. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the subject Patent Application has now been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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